

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. I was promised a promotional rate from BellSouth for one year. The rate was to be \$24.99 per month. My phone bill is not any where near the \$24.99 per month. My monthly phone bill is over \$50. That is ridiculous! That means that more than 1/2 of my phone bill is for "other charges, taxes, etc.". I find this utterly ridiculous. I should NOT have to pay for internet taxes, etc. I do not have a computer at home nor do I anticipate purchasing one any time soon. So where should I have to pay for something for others to enjoy? This is outrageous. This isn't even touching on senior citizens who lived on fixed incomes and have to pay outrageous amounts just for basic phone service. Something should have been done when these practices first started by the phone companies.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.